

# Governor's State Trails Council Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** 01/10/05

**LOCATION:** Via teleconference, Headquartered in Room 624, DNR Central Office, 101 S Webster St, Madison

**TIME:** 9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Council Members present: Tom Huber, Mike McFadzen, Christopher Kegel, David Phillips, Ken Carpenter, Ramsey Lee, Tom Thornton

Council Members absent: Donald Kirn, Connie Loden

DNR staff present: Bill Morrissey, Peter Biermeier, Gary Hanson, Brigit Brown, Joe Renville, Larry Freidig, Laurie Osterndorf, Paul Heinen, Jeremy Leitz

Others present: Luana Schneider, John Schnorr, Ken Linzmeyer

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE	KEY POINTS	OUTCOMES NEXT STEPS, ASSIGNMENTS
9:00 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Agenda changes and Approval of October meeting minutes	Bill Morrissey was introduced as the new Director of the WI State Park System. The only agenda change was to adjourn for five minutes after the Chair Report so everyone in Madison could move to a larger room. October Minutes: Mike McFadzen indicated he asked Russ Feingold to be a co-sponsor of the "Great Outdoors Act", not the sponsor. McFadzen added that he had called Feingold's office again, though has not heard back; congratulations were given to all who lobbied for the exception for DNR volunteers to the new Dept of Administration (DOA) rule for WI State Parks and Trails Volunteers to be allowed to use state vehicles as the exception was approved; John Schnorr indicated that the proper group name is the Wisconsin Off Highway Vehicle Association, not the WI Outdoor Recreation Vehicle Association.	The minutes as corrected were moved by David Phillips and seconded by Tom Thornton. Appropriate changes will be made to the October minutes and re-posted on the STC website.
9:05 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Chair Report: STC member appointments update, TE (Transportation Enhancements) resolution, proposed DNR budget cuts	The terms of Mike McFadzen, David Phillips, Chris Kegel, Connie Loden, and Tom Huber expire on July 1st. All indicated a willingness to serve again. Chris Kegel noted that he is not opposed to stepping down if the right person is found to replace him. The Transportation Enhancements (TE) Resolution passed in October reviewed. The resolution asked that the state currently allots about 50% of the amount allowed by the federal government, which provides the money. It was indicated that the maximum annual funding amount (for TE) changes yearly though is generally around \$12 million annually and the state legislature usually allots around \$6 million. Proposed budget cuts: There was general concern about the proposed budget cuts. Trails bring in revenue to the economy and increase fitness, leading to lower health care costs and better quality of life. Letters of concern were written to legislators from various STC members and user groups stating the concern over the budget cuts. Peter indicated that the WiDNR was asking to keep the money associated with the positions proposed to be cut to help fund certain regions that have fewer trail and park managers. Concern was indicated that county/municipal level management	Brigit will inform Mindy Walker, the Governor's Appointment Secretary, of the changes in STC officers. Regarding TE, wait until this summer when Congress passes their budget to see what was approved. Please make contacts to your local legislators, DOA, and the governor in concerning the proposed budget cuts. Friends of WI State Parks is addressing DOA and Governor's office regarding the proposed budget cuts.
9:25 a.m.	Peter Biermeier, WiDNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation	DNR Report: Introduction of Bill Morrissey, Joe Renville and Jeremy Leitz, State Parks Strategic Plan, DNR State Trail Pass Policy, ATV Advisory Committee update	Joe Renville, an attorney with the WiDNR who will be taking over some of Rick Henneger's duties, including serving as liaison to the STC was introduced. Jeremy Leitz was introduced and discussed the various projects he is undertaking, including a listing of State Trails Statutes and Codes, and a safety and etiquette brochure for trail users were discussed. Ken Carpenter was willing to participate in the creation of the Safety and Etiquette brochure. Peter indicated that the strategic plan was sent to the staff last fall and comments were received back. The Strategic Plan will be ready to present to external groups in the near future. The issue of where to charge the State Trail Pass was discussed. A list of "premier properties" was handed out indicating what trails would charge and for what usage. On January 26 the ATV Advisory Committee's final products go to the Natural Resource Board. Concern was expressed over lack of user group input into the manual code and the ATV Advisory Committee minutes. Larry Freidig indicated that the ATV Advisory Committee has met with the public and the draft incorporated some citizen comments. Brigit sent	Brigit will talk with Joe Renville about legal cases that have occurred with railroad right-of-ways (easements). A draft of the Safety and Etiquette brochure will be presented at the next STC meeting. Brigit will email the list of which "premier" trails the WiDNR will be charging on and for what uses to the STC and various user groups. Brigit will send out the manual code to the STC and others when it is completed. Mike McFadzen will send out the minutes and list of attendees from the ATV Advisory Committee to everyone.
9:50 a.m.	Larry Freidig, WiDNR Grants Program	2004 Recreational Trail Program Grants	Larry Freidig discussed the Federal Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grants and the project funded this year. Allocations of funds specified by Federal Law and the distribution specified by Administrative law were mentioned. The rules of the RTP grant program are based on STC suggestions. STC funding does not come from the RTP. All projects undertaken have a 50:50 cost share. This works well as it increases the number of sponsors and active participants versus the 80:20 funding split. The rankings and ratings list for projects is compiled in late June.	
10:00 a.m.	Tom Huber	Officer Elections	Mike McFadzen was nominated for Chair, David Phillips was nominated for Vice-Chair, and Ken Carpenter was nominated for Secretary. All three agreed to serve in these roles.	Tom moved the slate of nominees. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. No objections were noted in the call to vote resulting in a unanimous vote for all three.

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10:15 a.m.	Paul Heinen	Trail Advocacy	Paul Heinen discussed ways for the STC to be most effective. Suggestions included talking with legislators, participating in the upcoming budget hearings and inviting legislators to the April STC meeting. Heinen suggested inviting the following legislators: Kaufert, Fitzgerald, Doyle, Gard, Schultz, Kedzie, Gunderson, and especially emphasized including Assembly Leaders John Gard and Dale Schultz. Heinen also suggested sending comments to Congressman Kaufert and Fitzgerald in regard to the budget as they are on the Joint Finance Committee. The Governor will announce his budget on February 8. Public budget hearings will be in March and April. Other matters discussed included looking long term - the DNR may not be able to do as much as they did in the past, and increased public support will be necessary. Ramsey Lee asked about how to best present issues of concern to disabled users: Heinen stated that having STC members or disabled trail users at public hearings is the best way to represent interests of disabled user groups and for users to be heard.	Paul will send out the budget hearing schedule. Brigit and Jeremy will compile a list of state trails with the legislators that represent them and send it to the STC. Brigit will invite Governor Doyle and the recommended legislators to the April meeting, as well as DNR Secretary Hassett (or Bill Smith). Invites will also be sent to former Council Members Jeff Butson, Joe Par, Bill Pfaff, and to Rick Henneger. TE issues could be brought up in a broad manner at next meeting.
10:50 a.m.		Public Comment	General concern was voiced about having local units of government take over state trails. John Schnorr stated that the 1st Annual WI Off Highway Vehicle Associate Convention will be from March 18th-20th in Wabeno. A Tread Lightly Training Course will also be held in conjunction with the meeting. It was stated that representation from STC members to various user groups was lacking and that things do not funnel down from the STC to user groups very well. Luana Schneider noted that there is a four month lag time from the meeting being held and minutes being posted on the web. People who were unable to attend the meeting do not know what occurred until much later and are unable to comment for the minutes. Brigit stated that permission has been given to make draft minutes public and that the DNR is working to get them posted to the web earlier. Luana also felt that SCORP should be a regular meeting issue as it pertains to trail uses and recreation, that a SCORP update should be given at all STC meetings. The STC meeting minutes should be sent to Mindy Walker in the Governor's Appointments Office so she will be in the An issue to be discussed at the next meeting will pertain to the days of the week that work best for STC meetings.	Jeremy will be able to post on the web a draft of the minutes prior to the April meeting. Comments can then be sent in and appropriate changes can be made. It was noted that STC members get numerous requests to be lots of places and so can't always make meetings. Peter indicated the research that is occurring in regards to SCORP and who is doing the research. Meeting days for the STC will be on the April agenda.
11:00 a.m.		Adjourn	A motion to adjourn was presented by Mike McFadzen and seconded by David Phillips.	The meeting was adjourned.